First-Class Mail—Automation Letters and Cards

140

Related QSGs: 010, 012, 015, 810, 811, 900, 922, 923, 924

Quick Service Guide

Eligibility Overview (E140)

Mailings of 500 or more addressed pieces, 100% delivery point barcoded (C840), sorted, and marked as described below. All pieces must be automation-compatible (C810). Pieces mailed at card rates and pieces mailed at letter rates must meet separate 500-piece minimums.

Rates and Fees (R100)

	Route	5-Digit	3-Digit	AADC	AADC
First ounce or fraction					
(Pieces weighing not more than 2 oz.)	\$0.275	\$0.278	\$0.292	\$0.301	\$0.309
(Pieces weighing more than 2 oz.)	0.234	0.237	0.251	0.260	0.268
Each additional ounce or fraction	0.225	0.225	0.225	0.225	0.225
Postcard	0.170	0.176	0.183	0.187	0.194

Annual \$150.00 presort mailing fee (E110.4).

Carrier Route rates limited to 5-digit ZIP Codes identified in the City State File.

Addressing (A800, A950)

Each piece must also include a complete delivery address with correct ZIP Code or ZIP+4 code. Address and barcode quality subject to A800 and CASS/MASS standards in A950. Addresses on all pieces must be updated within 180 days before mailing through a USPS-approved address update tool (e.g., ACS, NCOA, *FASTforward*, or the appropriate ancillary service endorsement under F010).

Addresses must be matched using CASS/MASS-certified process within 180 days before mailing. Carrier route information updated using CASS-certified process within 90 days before mailing.

Characteristics and Content (C810)

Maximum weight: 3.3 ounces (pieces over 3 ounces must meet additional standards in C810.8.5). Shape: rectangular. Aspect ratio from 1.3 to 2.5 (C810.2.2). Dimensions:

- Minimum: 3-1/2 inches high, 5 inches long, and either 0.007 inch thick if not more than 4-1/4 inches high and 6 inches long; or 0.009 inch thick if more than 4-1/4 inches high or 6 inches long, or both.
- Maximum for cards at card rates: 4-1/4 inches high, 6 inches long, and 0.016 inch thick.
- Maximum for letters and other cards: 6-1/8 inches high, 11-1/2 inches long, and 1/4 inch thick.

All letter-size reply cards and envelopes (business reply, courtesy reply, and meter reply mail) provided as enclosures must meet the standards in C810.9.

Deposit

Mailing entered at an acceptance point designated by USPS (D100).

Mail Preparation and Sortation (M810)

Marking on each piece: "First-Class" or "Presorted (or PRSRT) First-Class" in the postage area. Pieces mailed at carrier route rate must bear an "AUTOCR" marking. Non-carrier route rates marked "First-Class" must also bear the "AUTO" marking. Non-carrier route pieces marked "Presorted (or PRSRT) First-Class" bearing a DPBC in the address block or on an insert visible through a window do not require the additional "AUTO" marking. For rate markings applied by MLOCRs, see M012.2.2. For additional marking standards for carrier route pieces, see M014. Pieces not claimed at an automation rate must not be marked "AUTO" or "AUTOCR" unless single-piece postage is affixed or a corrective single-piece rate marking is applied under P100 (M012).

Documentation:

- Postage statement: Form 3600-P (postage affixed) or Form 3600-R (permit imprint).
- Form 3553 (address, barcode (A950), and CRIS accuracy (A930)), must be retained for 1 year.
- Supporting documentation: required unless correct rate affixed to each piece or unless each piece is of identical weight and separated by rate when presented for acceptance; documentation generated by PAVE-certified software (or printed in standardized format).
- 1-foot or 2-foot trays used (M033) where appropriate (e.g., when there is enough mail to fill a 2-foot tray, a 2-foot tray must be used).

Barcoded tray labels required (M032).

See reverse for tray label Line 2 information.

Trays sleeved and strapped (M033.1.5). See M033.1.6 for exceptions to strapping for mixed AADC trays and mailings that originate and destinate in delivery area of same SCF.

Postage and Payment Methods (P100)

Precanceled stamp (P023), meter (P030), or permit imprint (P040); applicable conditions and restrictions.

Additional standards apply to mailings of nonidentical-weight pieces.

Special Services

See Quick Service Guide 900.

(S900)

This guide is an overview only. For the specific DMM standards applicable to this category of mail, consult the DMM sections referenced above and the general sections within each DMM module.

Traying Sequence (M810.2)

5-Digit/Scheme

Trays: Optional, 150 pieces to same 5-digit ZIP Code/ scheme destination; packaging not permitted; only one overflow tray permitted per destination.

Barcoded Labels: For Line 1: use city, state, and 5-digit ZIP Code on mail; on optional 5-digit scheme trays, use destination in City State File.

Rate: 5-Digit

3-Digit/Scheme (Required)

Trays: Required, 150 pieces to same 3-digit ZIP Code/scheme destination; packaging not permitted; only one overflow tray permitted per destination. (Exception: After all full trays are prepared, one less-than-full tray must be prepared for any remaining pieces for each 3-digit ZIP Code/ scheme of SCF serving post office where mail is verified.)

Barcoded Labels: For Line 1. use L002, Column B, for destination facility.

Rate: 3-Digit or AADC1

AADC

Trays: Required, 150 pieces to same AADC; packaging not permitted; pieces within trays grouped by 3-digit/ scheme destination; only one overflow tray permitted per destination.

Barcoded Labels: For Line 1, use L801 for destination facility.

Rate: AADC

Mixed AADC

Trays: Required for all remaining pieces placed in mixed AADC trays; pieces within trays grouped by AADC tray; only one less-than-full mixed AADC tray permitted per mailing.

Barcoded Labels: For Line 1, use "MXD" followed by city/state/ZIP Code of origin facility in L002, Column C.

Rate: Mixed AADC

WILBRAHAM MA 01095 FCM LTR [BC 5D SCHEME]² MILWAUKEE WI

SPRINGFIELD MA 010 FCM LTR [BC SCHEME]³ MILWAUKEE WI

AADC SPRINGFIELD 010 FCM LTR AADC BC MILWAUKEE WI

MXD MILWAUKEE WI 530 FCM LTR BC WKG MILWAUKEE WI

- 1. AADC rate for any 3-digit/scheme tray for the origin SCF area containing fewer than 150 pieces.
- 2. Use "5D BC" on 5-digit trays; on optional 5-digit scheme trays, use "BC 5D SCHEME."
- 3. Use "3D BC" on 3-digit trays; on 3-digit scheme trays, use "BC SCHEME" and, if applicable, as shown in L002, Column B, followed by the letter "A," "B," or "C."

Where overflow trays are permitted, they are required for required presort levels and optional for optional presort levels (M033.2).

Optional Carrier Route Preparation

At least 10 or more pieces to same carrier route (city route, rural route, highway contract route, post office box section, or general delivery unit); fewer than 10 pieces per route not permitted. Use an optional endorsement line or carrier route information line.

Carrier Route

Trays: Full trays only for pieces to same carrier route: packaging not permitted. Cardsize pieces must be banded. Less-than-full trays not permitted.

Barcoded Labels: For Line 1, use city, state, and 5-digit ZIP Code on mail.

Rate: Carrier Route

5-Digit Carrier Routes

Trays: Required if enough mail for a full tray, optional otherwise. After all full carrier route travs are prepared, remaining carrier route pieces (10 or more per route) must be grouped (use separator cards in full trays and banding material in less-than-full trays) and placed in 5digit carrier routes trays (no minimum number of pieces per tray).

Barcoded Labels: For Line 1, use city, state, and 5-digit ZIP Code on mail.

Rate: Carrier Route

CLEVELAND OH 44114 FCM LTR 5D CR-RT BC ACME CORP OMAHA NE

3-Digit Carrier Routes

Trays: Carrier route packages only: optional with minimum one 10-piece carrier route package for each of two or more 5-digit areas.

Barcoded Labels: For Line 1, use city, state, and 3-digit ZIP Code prefix shown in L002, Column A.

Rate: Carrier Route





Carrier route rates limited to 5-digit ZIP Codes identified in the City State File.

Packaging required in all mailings consisting entirely of postcard-size pieces and for pieces in overflow, less-than-full, and 3-digit carrier routes trays.